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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 001302

SIPDIS

EUR/NCE FOR FICHTE

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TAGS: [EZ](#) [IZ](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: EMBASSY BAGHDAD DCM ENGAGES THE CZECHS ON IRAQ

1) (C) Visiting Embassy Baghdad DCM David Satterfield briefed Czech MFA Director for the Middle East Miloslav Stasek August 31 on the situation in Iraq. Addressing the future of the insurgency, Satterfield focused on the need to separate the bulk of the Sunni population from the extreme Baathist elements on one end of the spectrum and the violent religious extremists on the other. Regarding future Czech contributions, Satterfield made a plea for technical assistance for the Iraqi ministries and also for perimeter security support for the NTM-I training center

2) (C) Stasek said that GOCR was interested in providing technical expertise to the evolving Iraqi ministries, but was unsure whether the security situation would allow such assistance at this time. Satterfield suggested the GOCR provide a list of ministries that they would like to help. U.S. Embassy Baghdad could provide a detailed description of the security situations in each ministry.

3) (C) Stasek asked if the U.S. would maintain its troops levels at around 135,000 in 2006. This was pitched in terms of the Czech's system of one-year parliamentary authorizations for deployments. Satterfield answered that the United States opposes a strict timeline for withdrawal and will assess the situation in various regions as more Iraqi forces come online.

4) (C) Stasek discussed the mid-September visit of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani to Prague, following Talabani's planned visit to the United States. Expressing the GOCR's enthusiasm to maximize the visit's effectiveness, Satterfield requested U.S. assistance in getting a list of Talabani's delegation in order to facilitate Czech planning for the trip. Embassy Prague is now working with Embassy Baghdad to provide this list to the Czechs.

CABANISS